

IRON STRONG DAILY



Page 1

June 10, 2008

Military working dog receives Army Achievement Medal

by Master Sgt. Keith Volkert
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment

On his last day of duty at Forward Operating Base Marez, Sgt. 1st Class Zzarr seemed excited with the Soldiers hovering around him at the 3d Armored Cavalry Regimental headquarters, June 5. Zzarr was about to receive an Army Achievement Medal, a reward for his service to the Army during his deployment. Zzarr was responsible for discovering about 6,000 pounds of explosives in hidden caches around Mosul.

As the Soldiers stood at attention and the orders were posted, Col. Michael Bills, commander of the 3d ACR, bent down and pinned the AAM on Zzarr's collar. Instead of a salute, Zzarr enthusiastically offered a paw, wagged his tail, and wanted to play.

Zzarr, a three-year old Dutch Sheppard, is a military working dog assigned to the 221st Military Police Detachment stationed at Fort

Eustis, Va.

The dog's trainer, Staff Sgt. Kevin Dee, said Zzarr specializes in searching for explosives. During the past year in Mosul, the dog was credited with finding three major caches, one of which included 1,200 pounds of explosives that was going to be used in a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

The dog's discoveries have saved countless lives by "finding things the (human) eye can't find," he said.

"The military working dogs are extremely well trained and adept at discovering these caches. The 'finds' remove these weapons from the hands of the enemy and decrease the resources they have to use against us," said Maj. Parker



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Volker, 3d ACR
Col. Michael Bills, commander, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment, pins an Army Achievement Medal on Sgt. 1st Class Zzarr, a military working dog at Forward Operating Base Marez, June 5. Zzarr specializes in searching for explosives and is credited with finding more than 6,000 pounds of a variety of explosives.

Frawley, planning officer for the 3d ACR.

Frawley's mother, Starline Nunley, and the Gem City Dog Club in Dayton, Ohio, also recognize area of operations that work daily with the Iraqi Security Force and Coalition Force Soldiers to find hidden explosives and other weapons.

"These MWDs have been extremely useful in our daily combat operations," said Capt. William Nance, commander of Regimental Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3d ACR. Nance worked with Zzarr and other MWDs regularly

Working Dog from Page 1



Photo by Master Sgt. Keith Volker, 3d ACR

Military working dog, Sgt. 1st Class Zzarr, takes a moment to rest after being awarded the Army Achievement Medal during a ceremony at Forward Operating Base Marez, Iraq, June 5. Zzarr found three major caches during his tour, one of which included 1,200 pounds of explosives set to go into a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device.

as the Heavy Company, 3rd Squadron, 3d ACR commander during the first six months of the regiment's deployment to Iraq. "They can cover more ground, faster than human search teams and have been instrumental in clearing sites for COP builds, as well as quickly clearing a building during a raid. This speed allows us to spend less time on the objective, keeping everyone safer.

"That and they're a lot of fun to have around the CP before and after missions," Nance added.

With the award pinned on his collar, Zzarr received a multitude of congratulatory pats on the head from the Soldiers. After all, Zzarr is the one digging around in the dirt and roaming through buildings looking for explosives, said Dee. "He does all the work. I have all the fun," Dee said.

Operation Apocalypse destroys major Al Qaeda in Iraq cell

Coalition force conducted a major offensive operation along the Tigris River Valley in the western portion of the Kirkuk province, June 4.

The operation targeted a major Al Qaeda in Iraq terrorist network responsible for car bomb attacks and weapons smuggling affecting the Kirkuk province as well as surrounding areas in Northern Iraq.

A total of 34 suspected terrorists were detained and 4 killed during the operation. Among the dead was the cell leader known as the Amir of Sharqat and his top lieutenants. 'Operation Apocalypse' was conducted by elements of 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division and was a result of information gained from previous successful tips from local citizens.

MND-North 4-DAY WEATHER FORECAST



MON

LO:
78F/26C

HI:
104F/40C



TUE

LO:
80F/27C

HI:
104F/40C



WED

LO:
78F/26C

HI:
102F/39C



THU

LO:
78F/27C

HI:
104F/40C

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AFGHANISTAN

AP - First lady Laura Bush, on a mission to highlight signs of progress in war-weary Afghanistan, ventured outside the capital Sunday to an area that symbolizes both the destruction and attempt at rebirth.

TEXAS

AP - Arson is suspected in the fire that struck the historic Texas Governor's Mansion early Sunday, causing damage that state officials described as "bordering on catastrophic," the state fire marshal said.

HOUSTON

AP - Two astronauts floated outside the international space station Sunday and finished two of the maintenance tasks on their work list during the final spacewalk of the space shuttle Discovery's visit to the orbiting outpost.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

AP - The red and blue map is about to be turned upside down in November, as both Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama plot a path to the presidency. And beyond strategy, are the issues of the campaign. Mr. Obama wants to define the faltering economy as the paramount issue facing the country, a task probably made easier by ever-rising gasoline prices and the sharp rise in unemployment the government reported on Friday. Mr. McCain, by contrast, has been emphasizing national security more than any other issue

INDIANAPOLIS

AP - A possible tornado toppled trees in Nebraska and record flooding chased people from their Indiana homes early Sunday as the Midwest braced for still more violent weather. At least one person drowned in the Indiana flooding and one was missing since more than 10 inches of rain swamped the state this weekend. Twenty-one counties had been declared disasters, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the Indiana Department of Homeland Security.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

AP - The first openly gay Episcopal bishop and his partner of 20 years have been united in a private civil union. The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson was legally joined to Mark Andrew, his partner of 20 years, in a civil ceremony Saturday, the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire announced. Civil unions became legal in New Hampshire this year.

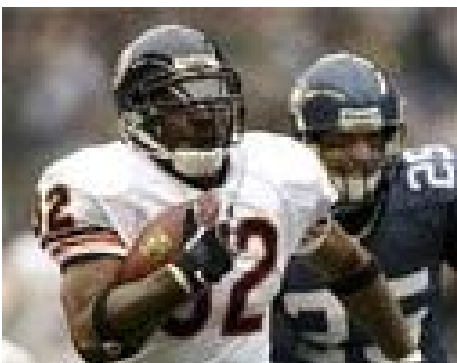
AFRICA

The Summit on soaring food prices, convened by the U.N. Food & Agriculture Organizations (FAO), has concluded with the adoption by acclamation of a declaration calling on the international community to increase assistance for developing countries, and particularly the least developed countries and those that are most negatively affected by high food prices.

"There is an urgent need to help developing countries and countries in transition expand agriculture and food production, and to increase investment in agriculture, agri-business and rural development from both public and private sources," according to the declaration.

BASEBALL

Chicago - (AP) Joe Crede hit two homers for the second straight game and had six RBIs Saturday night to lead the surging Chicago White Sox to an 11-2 victory over the Minnesota Twins.

FOOTBALL

New York - (Reuters) Chicago Bears running back Cedric Benson was arrested on a drunk-driving charge on Saturday in Austin, Texas, his second arrest in just over a month. Benson, the Bears' first-round draft choice in 2005, was also charged on May 3 for driving a boat while intoxicated and resisting arrest.

GOLF

Memphis, Tenn. (AP) - Tim Clark isn't thinking about how close he has come to winning his first PGA Tour title only to come up short. The South African's approach? He will win — eventually.

HORSERACING

So far no one has found any physical ailments with Big Brown. His trainer, Rick Dutrow, was not at the barns Sunday morning. The colt's owners were scarce, too. Michael Iavarone, co-president of International Equine Acquisitions Holdings, who owns part of Big Brown, said they were perplexed about the colt's performance in the 140th running of the Belmont Stakes. Jockey Kent Desormeaux pulled an obviously uncomfortable Big Brown up before he had run a mile of the mile-and-a-half Test of the Champion. Iavarone said Desormeaux did the right thing.

SPORTS

New York - (AP) Jim McKay elegantly covered competitions from badminton to barrel jumping. Yet he may best be remembered for that grim day at the Munich Olympics when he broke the news with three simple words: "They're all gone." The groundbreaking sportscaster died Saturday of natural causes at his farm in Monkton, Md. He was 86.

Arabic Phrases

Phrase
tif-HAM-nee

MA-da-AF-ham

ar-JOOK, Eh-chee
ya-WAH\$H



Meaning
Do you understand me?

I don't understand

Please speak slowly